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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Sisseton woman selected National Guard volunteer of the Year

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Tammy Chase, from Sisseton, received the prestigious AMVETS PNC John S. Lorec “National Guard Volunteer of the Year” award at the National Guard Family Program conference in St. Louis, Mo., on July 23rd.

This national award recognizes volunteers for exceptional service to military and family members and to their community. Chase was also awarded \$1,000 for her unit’s family readiness group.

“Her record speaks for itself,” said Chief Warrant Officer Lynn Wright, family readiness assistant at Joint Forces Headquarters in Rapid City. “She’s a truly dedicated and committed volunteer.”

Chase has been an integral part of the South Dakota National Guard’s Family Program since becoming the family readiness group leader for A Battery, 2nd Battalion, 147<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, in 1997. For 11 years, she has provided continuous support and assistance to the program, units, service members, and families throughout the state.

“Tammy’s not afraid to tackle a job and keeps coming up with new ideas to generate support,” said Wright. “She is always looking out for the best way to help the families.”

Chase distinguished herself over the years by improving her education and providing leadership and training to others within the National Guard and her community.

“Her selection just shows the caliber of people we have in this state, dedicated families and great talent,” Wright added.

Chase currently serves as the family readiness group leader for Detachment 1, HHS, 1st Bn, 147th FA.

Chase was cited for her efforts throughout the past year which include:

- Served as unit's Family Readiness Group Leader, maintaining the telephone tree, publishing newsletters and organizing events.
- Maintained the unit sponsorship program by contacting families and welcoming them to the unit.
- Conducted Family Program presentation to unit families.
- Organized two (2) family events
- Provided baked goods to Soldiers at monthly drills.
- Created, published and mailed the battalion quarterly newsletter to about 500 families.
- Staffed the family information station at the unit's annual Soldier Readiness Processing Exercise.
- Organized a pre-mobilization planning meeting for FRG chairpersons and military leaders to develop a plan of action to insure families are prepared for possible deployment in 2009.

-30-

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753.